



Learn and Serve Idaho provides young people with opportunities to serve Idaho by connecting community service with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility. Grantees create new service learning programs, replicate existing models, and train staff, faculty, adult volunteers, and students in service learning. Participants are K-12, school-age youth.

Eligible applicants for Learn & Serve grants are Idaho K-12 schools of any grade span. Grantee schools must be committed to service learning as a teaching/learning strategy and as an integral component of education. The vision of Learn and Serve Idaho is to assist schools in implementing site-based programs of service learning through policy, practice, and capacity building. Learn and Serve Idaho provides financial and technical assistance to schools as they develop and implement policies and supportive structures at all levels, while reducing barriers to the institutionalization of service learning.

For more information contact Cheryl Kary—cmkary@sde.idaho.gov or 208-332-6913.

Student’s Corner

Highlands Elementary has an excellent service learning strand that works with Boise refugees at Lowell Elementary School. Lowell has students from approximately 15 countries that speak about 20 languages. This was a 15 minute reflection at the end of a service learning experience at Lowell.

I’ve learned that everyone is needing help. But, I’ve only noticed people who really need help.

But when we came in to show new Americans about America, America shows them itself by our way of life.

They didn’t come in waving flags. They came in looking for the answers to questions they had - only a kid could fix - homes, languages - were changed in very little time.



And they could only watch as they saw us appear around the corner of a hallway. Strangers before. Just like everything else was.

But soon, it was all memories of meeting the kids of America.

“Hello,” we said as we walked through the door to a new tomorrow - giving them a fresh start in a new world.

Songs were songs. Cookies were made in the warm basement of Lowell Elementary as the sun split through the clouds of struggle -- but we shined the light to a new life in America.”

Greg Wallingford
Highlands Elementary
6th grade



State Department of Education
Tom Luna
Superintendent of Public Instruction
650 W. State St.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
208-332-6800

For more information contact:
Cheryl Kary at 208-332-6913
cmkary@sde.idaho.gov
-or-
Tina Naillon at
208-332-6904
tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov

IDAHO LEARN AND SERVE SUBGRANT PROGRAM CURRENT SUBGRANTEES 2007-2008	
The Alameda Center Pocatello, ID ANSER Charter School- Boise, ID Burton Elementary Rexburg, ID Highlands Elementary Boise, ID Lakeland High School Rathdrum, ID Lapwai Elementary Lapwai, ID Middleton High School Middleton, ID	Mullan Trail Elementary Post Falls, ID Orofino Jr. & Sr. High School Orofino, ID Parma Learning Center Parma, ID Sorensen Magnet School of the Arts & Humanities Coeur d’Alene, ID Wendell Middle School Wendell, ID

Idaho

Kids in action

LEARN AND SERVE

Note from the Director

Planning & Preparation for next year’s Service Learning

As you are aware, planning for service learning is one of the important first steps in a successful service learning experience. As part of your plan, you will need to identify your service needs, specify the content and curricular connections, and spell out your ideas for the 4 key elements of service learning: preparation, action, reflection and demonstration. BUT, a common question is, “How can I plan ahead while leaving room for ‘youth voice and choice’ ”? The key to this question is to create a good service learning framework that is flexible enough to provide ample opportunities for student learning and choice. Your plan can be revised as students and community partners introduce new ideas. Even when your original plan remains intact there are still many opportunities for students to make choices. For instance, if your service learning plan is to have a class paint a community mural as part of your language arts and social studies curriculum, the students can still help determine the design and actual content of the mural. Other ways to encourage student voice and skill development is to assign teams that have certain assigned tasks. These could include: “Communication Specialists” to write correspondence and log phone calls; “Photographers” to take pictures to present a visual timeline; “Publicists” to write press releases; and “Historians” to assemble a scrapbook to tell the complete story of your service learning project story. These jobs can be age appropriate for any grade level. Hope these ideas help you as you look forward to a new year of successful service learning in your school.


Highlights

Youth for a Change. Minneapolis April 9-12, 2008.

Desmond Tutu keynote speaker at the 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference.

Sponsored by National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC). For more information please visit www.nylc.org.

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APRIL 2008

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 9-12, 2008
19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference — Minneapolis, MN.


APRIL 15, 2008
Notification of Grant Awards


APRIL 25-27, 2008
National Youth Service Day

APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2008
National Volunteer Week

MAY 30, 2008
LASSIE Report Due

JULY 15, 2008
Second Progress Report Due





Orofino High

Civic Engagement



McCain Campaign Poster By Orofino High School Students



Clinton Campaign Poster By Orofino High School Students



Obama Campaign Poster By Orofino High School Students



“I wish I could vote this year,” was a repeated comment made by several Orofino High School students. This is a perfect example of getting students engaged in their civic responsibility. Orofino High School students started the year by studying the history of voting, and then studied the candidates and issues for the 2008 election. The students designed campaign posters for Obama, Clinton and McCain by addressing important issues like the economy, Iraq, immigration, education, abortion, health care, and national security.

On March 22, 2008 they helped plan and serve at the Clearwater County Republican dinner which gave them a chance to hear and talk to a variety of county, state and national office holders. The students were able to ask questions about issues that affected them like education and gas prices.

Both Orofino High School and Orofino Jr. High are actively involved in promoting social change in Clearwater County by increasing voting and creating a more informed and engaged citizenry. The high school government class, led by Pam Danielson, the Service Learning Coordinator, are working on a film series of short videos entitled “Civic Education Video Series”.

The plan is to have segments on the roles of citizens, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the position of candidates and political parties. As part of this, the students will interview other students, give public service announcements on the radio, and post videos on YouTube.

“Orofino High School and Orofino Jr. High are actively involved in promoting social change...”

Civic education in Orofino also includes a cross-age mock trial that involves seniors, 8th graders as well as 4th graders. The 4th graders prepared for the activity by reading the book, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. They brainstormed court phrases, considered a courtroom diagram, and discussed the judicial process. The 8th graders also read the story and became storybook characters as they participated in the *voir dire* (jury selection) process conducted by 12th grade attorneys and judges. The senior government students readied themselves for the trial by taking courtroom roles and preparing for prosecution and defense as attorneys and witnesses. ■



Students engaged in a mock caucus

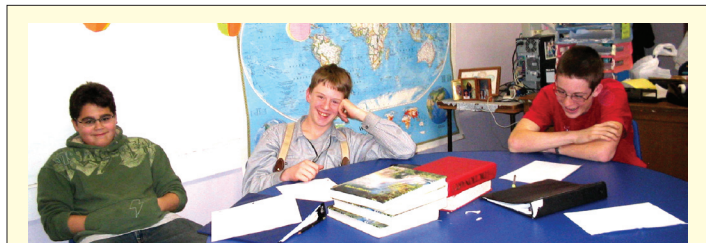
Orofino Jr. High

Civic Engagement

Orofino Junior High students have been actively working on their service learning civic education— “Get Out the Vote” project. In March, Desirae Downing, a caucus representative from Orofino, visited the classroom and talked about the differences in a primary and a caucus. Students then participated in a mock caucus. The activity was modified a bit for classroom purposes with John McCain, Hillary Clinton, and Barak Obama all in the mix. Students could declare their favorite candidate or go to the uncommitted group. Then supporters of their candidates were given the opportunity to try to persuade those uncommitted to come join their group.

The first week of April, students made doorknob hangers to remind people in the community to register and vote. They will distribute these around their neighborhoods.

On April 22nd a county election official will be bringing in a voting booth and a primary ballot to teach students about the voting process. They will be able to vote using sample ballots. As part of National Service Days, students will man a voter registration booth at a local grocery store. ■



Orofino Jr. High Caucus



Students making voter doorknob hangers